

**Consolidated list of questions from Regional Framework Training
Los Angeles, San Leandro, Fresno, Sacramento
February 14-17, 2006**

Framework Overview

1. How much can we expect the framework to flex with the new contractor? Given that the framework is still in draft form, will the timeline of 06-07 for full implementation still be the expectation?

A. The Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework is in its final form now; it was approved by the State Commission in July 2005. The Guidelines will be finalized when the new Statewide Evaluation contractor begins work (after May 1, 2006). Sample Guidelines have been provided to show the data elements that are required under the new Framework. The new requirements are effective July 1, 2006. The State anticipates that 2006-07 will be a "transition" year, with full implementation being achieved by July 1, 2007.

2. In Accountability (p.16), the term "indicators" does not seem to match the 3 bullets of "effective stewards.., etc."; that is, as First 5 previously used the term "indicators".

A. The term "indicators" here is used to reference those indicators or measures which will best elicit or demonstrate that First 5 is meeting these mandates.

3. Where does the Special Needs project fit in the reporting structure?

A. The Special Needs Project will continue with its current reporting structure.

4. Can you elaborate on "demographic profile" requirement? How should this be reported? How does this differ from SR requirement?

A. Aggregate demographic data will be reported to the State using standardized forms which will be developed by the new Statewide Evaluation contractor. Sample forms are available in the materials distributed during the training sessions under tab number 3, "County Annual Report Submittal Guidelines, Part II: Fiscal and Service Data." These sample forms show all of the data elements that will be required. School Readiness reporting will be the same, with the additional requirement to report aggregate outcome data.

5. How will School Readiness data align with 100 percent county funded programs?

A. School Readiness reporting of local evaluation, demographic and fiscal data will be the same, with the additional requirement to report aggregate outcome data.

6. Will the State continue to collect population level data?

A. Yes, the Center for Results will collect, analyze and distribute population level data.

7. If the new framework is to be implemented in FY 06-07, what are the implications for data collection for the FY 05-06?

A. Data collection for 2005-06 will continue under the current statewide data collection and evaluation design.

8. What has changed in the Annual Report?

A. There is a "Summary of Significant Changes" in the County Annual Report Submission Guidelines.

9. What elements will be implemented in 07/08?

A. All new elements will be implemented by 2007-08.

10. How are "proven strategy" and "effective strategy" defined (pg. 16) for best practices?

A. The Center for Results will develop criteria to determine this definition.

Comment: Request to add a definition of "proven and effective strategies" to the glossary.

11. Shouldn't the chart of the 3 levels of research on page 6 of the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework have a column for the 100% State Funded (like the Kit for New Parents)?

A. The chart presented here has been edited from the original version so that it will fit on one page. The chart presented covers only the topics of focus for this training. Please contact the Research and Evaluation office if you would like a copy of the more detailed chart.

12. What will be the level 3 program evaluation design for a SR program at level 3? Could you provide an example? For the level 3 data, Will there be a cost and time to the local commission or to the local program?

A. The design of the in-depth studies will be determined by the Center for Results, in consultation with its Steering Committee, technical and advisory committees, and under the general direction of the State Commission. An example could be a cost-benefit study. The State will be responsible for paying for these studies. There may be some time involved for local programs that are selected to participate. The Statewide Evaluation contractor will take all

measures possible to minimize the burden on local programs. Level 3 data will also include local evaluation reports submitted by County Commissions.

13. How will you have anything at Level 3 because it's so inconsistent?

A. Part of the Scope of Work for the Center for Results is to compile and analyze the diverse local reports submitted by counties.

14. There is a reference to "elements" of the framework (page 8) in the section labeled "Implementation". What elements are being referred?

A. The components of the Annual Report requirements. For example, outcomes and indicators by result area for School Readiness Programs.

**15. Will First 5 fund CHIS in future years?
Will the State fund CHIS to collect 0-5 data again?**

A. Future funding of CHIS will depend on the approval of the State Commission. The next cycle for CHIS data collection will be for 2007.

16. How will this evaluation framework provide learning for counties?

A. Learning is described on page 5 of the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework as one of the key purposes of evaluation. The Framework is intended to improve this aspect of the statewide evaluation primarily through the Center for Results. The Center will compile and analyze data from all counties and distribute the information statewide.

17. Where will you get the information to be able to report on the programs that counties are funding?

A. From the data submitted in the Annual Report, including County Profiles, and in local evaluation reports.

18. Will the problems with the CARES data system be resolved so we don't have to duplicate efforts again?

A. The State's plan is to eliminate all duplication of efforts in reporting and is currently working on a system to accomplish this.

19. What is the rationale for cutting back on coaches?

A. Coaches have been available for several years to give counties individualized assistance in their evaluation efforts. The new statewide evaluation contract does not include funding for this level of individualized attention to all counties, but does provide a significant component of technical assistance to ensure that counties can take responsibility for local evaluation, as specified in the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework.

20. Will KEP continue?

A. Yes.

21. Do you anticipate using the same format for the KEP?

A. Yes.

22. Request that you provide a rubric so we can see how the revised DRDP corresponds to the current one.

A. The California Department of Education (CDE) is revising the DRDP, perhaps they will develop a comparison of the new and old tool. There will be opportunities for receiving training from CDE on the revised DRDP.

23. Will the NIEER National Preschool Evaluation study look at class size as a factor?

A. Yes.

24. When will SRI be starting KEP? How will they be contacting us? Who will they be contacting?

A. SRI will follow the same process used over the last four years. They will begin in March by contacting the person specified by the county Executive Director.

PEDS

**25. Will PEDS be eliminated?
Will there be changes in PEDS?**

A. The State is currently conducting a needs assessment to determine how PEDS is able to handle the requirements of the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework. A new development and/or modification to the State data system will be determined by the needs assessment. Regardless of the outcome, a State-supported data system will continue to be available to counties to support their local data collection.

**26. Will PEDS remain in place in 06-07?
If not, is the county expected to establish its own data collection system?
If so, won't the systems be so different as to make results sent to the state too difficult to use?**

A. PEDS or a similar system will be available in 2006-07 and in future years so that counties will not be required to establish their own data collection systems unless they would like to do so (see also the response to question 25).

27. If we are required to report expenditure per service area, will PEDS be modified to collect the data?

A. Yes, the data reporting system will be modified to meet the new data collection requirements.

**28. If we do not report modality, do we still need to ask grantees to collect PEDS direct service forms?
Are the activities in SR to be accounted for on Table 2 of this report?**

A. There is no requirement in the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework to report data on modality to the State. It is up to each county to decide which information to request from its grantees. In general, counties will be requesting more information from their grantees than they are reporting to the State. This information will be used for local evaluation reports and local planning and decision-making.

Yes, there is a line in Table 2 of the Annual Report "County Commission Revenue and Expenditures Summary" for School Readiness.

29. Does Estrada Consulting, Inc. (the contractor who is conducting the technology needs assessment) plan to talk with counties?

A. Yes.

30. Can we continue to use the PEDS system to collect and report this data?

A. Yes, please see response to question 25.

31. Will the State continue to support a system like PEDS?

A. Yes.

32. Power of Preschool demonstration sites are currently required to use PEDS, but what if PEDS is not continued? We don't want to spend a lot of time on PEDS now if it is not going to be used in the future.

A. Demonstration sites are required to use PEDS now and then to use PEDS or the system that replaces PEDS in the future.

Local Commission Evaluation

33. Will the State be reviewing the county evaluation plans?

A. Counties will be submitting their evaluation plans as part of the Annual Report submittal. Although neither the State nor the Center for Results will be “evaluating” counties’ plans, the plans will be reviewed by the Center.

34. Level 2 states “counties would be required to conduct local evaluation studies and to provide selected studies to the state...” Will these studies be beyond current local evaluation activities?

A. This depends on the nature of current local evaluation activities. The new Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework places the responsibility for evaluating locally funded programs with the counties. For counties that do not have local evaluations, the new Statewide Evaluation contractor will provide technical support.

35. Will every program have to collect outcome data? Will it depend on the amount of money a program gets? Will it depend on the type of program?

A. Outcome data are required for School Readiness programs. For locally funded programs, County Commissions can decide how to conduct their local evaluations, following the legislative requirements. It would make sense that local evaluations would take into account the amount of funding received by the program, and programs receiving more money would be emphasized more in local evaluations.

36. Are there criteria for reporting on local evaluation results? Will there be any format/structure restrictions for local evaluation results reporting?

A. Currently, no criteria, format, structure, or restrictions have been identified for local evaluation reports.

37. In 100% local, will providers define themselves as far as which result area and service category they fit into?

A. Counties are responsible for reporting this information to the State. It would make sense that counties would work with providers to determine in which categories they fit.

38. In the section on 100% local, the document says, “proposed reporting structure,” will we be getting more detail?

A. The structure described in the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework was “proposed” by the Evaluation Workgroup. However, after approval by the State Commission, this structure was adopted.

39. We are a minimum allocation county and we are not evaluators, who will help us with this?

A. Technical assistance will be provided by the new Statewide Evaluation contractor, who is expected to begin work on May 1, 2006.

40. To what extent will the Center for Results studies be aligned with county or program level evaluation so that the research/evaluation conducted by the Center will be seamless (related to in-depth studies)?

A. The work of the Center for Results should appear seamless to most observers. Part of the Scope of Work of the Center for Results is to align with county and local evaluation.

41. What is the Technology format going to be for the local evaluation reports?

A. There is currently no format for the submission of local evaluation reports.

42. Are we required to fund in all four Result Areas?

A. For School Readiness, programs are required to fund in all four Result Areas. For locally funded programs, County Commissions determine in which Result Areas they will fund, based on local needs and in accordance with their Strategic Plans.

43. Will we submit entire reports on findings for evaluation studies?

A. Yes.

44. Will each county decide which topics they want to evaluate?

A. Each county will be responsible for evaluating their funded programs in a manner that aligns with their Strategic Plan and complies with Prop 10 legislative requirements.

45. Wouldn't it be easier to ask counties to report data in a consistent format?

A. Fiscal and accountability data will be reported in a consistent format. However, the evaluation is intended to accommodate local autonomy in developing programs and measuring results. Therefore, there is no way to develop a consistent format for reporting of local evaluation data.

46. Note: Some studies are conducive to collecting "core" participant type of data, and some are not.

A. Yes, this is the case. Counties will need to determine the level of data collection that is appropriate in each case. The new evaluation contractor will provide technical assistance with this.

47. Are counties required to provide outcomes for every dollar spent?

A. No. For example, mini-grants and systems changes may not lend themselves to outcome reporting. The State will accept whatever data is reported to the County Commission.

48. Is any more money coming to us so we can do this?

A. No.

49. The document says that the format for presenting outcome data in the Annual Report for 100% local evaluations will be developed, when will this be done?

A. After the new Statewide Evaluation contractor begins work, May 1, 2006. The Center for Results will determine the format for presenting outcome data in the Annual Report. The Center will take the local evaluation reports submitted by each county, compile and analyze the data, and determine an appropriate method for reporting. There is no format for county submission of local evaluation reports.

Center for Results

50. What is the Center for Results? Is it an actual place or a concept?

A. It is a concept.

51. Can you describe the in-depth and case study process in more depth?

Who decides which studies will be done?

How will the decision be made to select programs for in-depth study?

How will counties be selected to participate?

When will we know if we are included?

A. The Center for Results will decide what types of studies to conduct under the general direction of the State Commission and with input from the counties and technical and advisory committees. The Center will determine the exact nature and methodology of the case studies and special studies, with input from the previously mentioned groups. Counties will be selected for inclusion based on the nature of the study and the appropriate sampling methodology for that study. The timeline will depend on the timeline of a particular study. You may be contacted to participate at any time.

52. Will the State's focused research projects be funded by the State?

A. Yes.

53. Is there a local county commission option NOT to participate with a particular funded project?

A. As part of the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework, counties must participate in and cooperate with the Center for Results on research projects for which they are selected to participate. This will ensure that First 5 is able to demonstrate its impacts for children statewide.

54. When will the decision of a State evaluator be announced?

A. The intent to award was posted on February 24, 2006. Now, it is in a protest period. Contract negotiations will begin when the protest period ends.

55. If local evaluation contractors participate on advisory committees for the Center for Results, will they be reimbursed by the State or will local commissions be expected to cover these costs?

A. No, they will not be reimbursed by the State.

56. Do you anticipate using the same active and passive consent for Level 3 data collection?

A. The State anticipates using active consent.

57. Do you have examples of the consent forms for Level 3 we can look at? Do you have an example of a paragraph for the consent form explaining the in-depth studies?

A. No examples are currently available. The content of the consent forms will depend on the type of study.

58. Will translation be available for release forms? Will they be completed by the State and sent to the counties to ensure consistency?

A. Yes, the State will provide translation.

59. Who will be responsible for getting consent for Level 3 studies?

A. The new Statewide Evaluation contractor.

60. How will you report results? Won't you have to compare counties to say this county is getting better results than this other county?

A. The Center for Results will determine an appropriate methodology for reporting results, with input from the counties and technical/advisory committees.

61. Will an output for the Center for Results be the Annual Report?

A. Yes.

62. Will any of the information produced by the Center for Results be distilled to the county level or only available at the State level?

A. The Center for Results will report information at the county and the State level, as appropriate to demonstrate how First 5 is making a difference for children and to facilitate information sharing and learning among counties.

63. Will part of the scope of work of the Center for Results be to review local evaluation reports?

A. The Center for Results will be collecting and analyzing local evaluation results for dissemination. The Center will not be providing counties with feedback on the quality of their local evaluation reports.

64. Does the State take into account the great diversity between counties?

A. Yes, one of the requirements for the new Statewide Evaluation contractor is to demonstrate their understanding of this diversity.

65. What will the Center for Results be doing as far as research studies?

A. In-depth studies and special studies, such as a longitudinal study and a cost-benefit study. Studies will be designed under the direction of the Center for Results Steering Committee with general direction from the State Commission. The Center will integrate what is being done, look for gaps of needed study, look at factors that are working in given counties, and facilitate information sharing and learning among counties.

66. Won't there have to be a comparison group for the longitudinal studies so you can say the programs are effective?

A. The Center for Results will determine an appropriate methodology for reporting results, with input from the counties and technical/advisory committees.

67. How will you compare different cost-benefit ratios of different counties?

A. The Center for Results will determine the methodology of any cost-benefit studies.

68. What is the cost to the counties for the special studies?

A. The State will pay for the special studies. However, there may be some time involved for counties who are selected to participate. Every effort will be made to minimize the data collection burden for the counties.

69. Comment: Recognize that there will be some staff time involvement for client interaction, communication, setting up, etc.. related to these special studies. Suggest a “partnership” between the county and contracted evaluator.

A. We appreciate your comment.

70. On what criteria are local studies likely to be “selected” for sharing with the state?

A. The Center for Results will determine the criteria for sharing local studies.

71. How will the relationship between the county and Center for Results be cultivated?

A. The Center for Results will be incorporating County input in all of its processes. Counties will be represented on the Center for Result Steering Committee. It is part of the Scope of Work of the Center to work with counties and foster a partnership with the counties.

72. Will smaller counties be selected for research projects?

A. Yes, depending on the exact nature and methodology of any given study, smaller counties may be oversampled for inclusion, or may be the object of a special study or emphasis within a study.

73. How much of the data collection will the Center do versus how much will the county be expected to do?

A. The Center for Results will be responsible for all data collection related to special studies and in-depth studies beyond what the county or programs are already collecting.

74. How will the Center for Results and State staff be able to go through reports in 58 different formats?

A. Part of the Scope of Work for the Center for Results is to compile and analyze these data, given the diversity of the reports.

75. Can you give examples of the types of studies the Center for Results may conduct?

A. For example, a cost-benefit study, or a study on effective oral health programs in rural areas.

76. How can counties give input to the Center for Results?

A. The Center will be soliciting input from counties frequently. There will be county representation on the Center for Results Steering Committee. Also, there will likely be a mechanism for back and forth communication with the counties. The communication will not be only one-way.

77. What involvement will county commissions have in determining the Center for Results research agenda?

A. The Center for Results is required to use input from County Commissions, the State Commission, and technical and advisory committees in setting its agenda. There will be county representation on the Center for Results Steering Committee.

78. How will the Center for Results impact State planning and fiscal decisions?

A. The State Commission will continue to have the responsibility for making these types of decisions. Two State Commissioners will be on the Center for Results Steering Committee. Information from the Center for Results and the Steering Committee will be presented to the State Commission.

79. Have longitudinal studies been defined?

A. No, but two areas have been identified – School Readiness and Power of Preschool.

80. How will the longitudinal study be representative of the population given that it will be on a select few programs and counties?

A. It will be part of the Scope of Work of the Center for Results, in consultation with technical and advisory committees, to determine a methodology that will provide the necessary information in a scientifically rigorous manner, given the diversity of First 5 programs.

81. What if the State longitudinal study data collection process conflicts with the county longitudinal study process?

A. Every effort will be made to avoid any such conflict.

82. If a family or participant decides not to participate in state program, is this okay?

A. Participation is always voluntary.

83. How long is the Statewide Evaluation contract?

A. Three years with the possibility of a two-year extension beyond that.

84. What is the timeline for Center for Results feedback, news, workshops, etc. to local commission staff?

A. Once the Center for Results is up and running, they will be providing ongoing feedback, news, etc. to local commission staff.

85. County level individual grants vary from \$1,000 to \$100,000. Would these projects be evaluated with equal vigor?

A. No, the criteria of reasonableness should be used to determine how much effort is required in each circumstance.

86. When will we be able to start using the Center for Results website?

A. When the new Statewide Evaluation and Statewide Evaluation Technology contractors put it together.

87. Will the Center for Results answer questions on research, survey design, and how to set up evaluations?

A. The new contractor is a good source for local evaluation research design. They will provide ongoing technical assistance and workshops.

88. What overall impact will the Center for Results be looking for given that counties and programs are so different?

A. One of the main functions of the Center is to get information about the overall impact of First 5, given the diversity of programs. The Center is responsible for determining a methodology which will take into consideration the diversity of First 5 programs.

89. If county A is interested in literacy and county B's approach, will the Center for Results be able to facilitate sharing of information and communication?

A. Yes, that is exactly the type of information sharing and learning that the Center for Results will be doing.

Annual Report Guidelines

90. How are funds reported?

A. By Result Area, Services, and type of provider.

91. Which service areas are reported by counties?

A. Each county interprets its own service areas for reporting from the list of services provided by the State.

92. How will the Annual Report be standardized for all counties?

A. All counties will use the same forms for reporting fiscal and service data and the same instructions for completing the narrative portion of the Annual Report.

93. Will there be a place for notes or comments for further explanation of a Result Area/Service Area entry reported?

A. Yes, in the narrative section. When the forms are finalized, there could also be an optional field for comments.

94. Are the services listed an exhaustive list?

A. Yes, the list of services will be an exhaustive list of the service categories for reporting data to the State after the list is finalized.

95. What about programs with multiple services? Do we list them all?

A. If there is a logical and practical method to allocate specific percentages of the program to different service categories, then use that method. However, if there is no reasonable way to divide the program into multiple services, determine the service category that best describes the main services of the program. It is understood that many programs do integrate various services, so that would be taken into account when these data are used.

96. Where do we record individual providers?

A. Counties will not be reporting data to the State by individual programs. Counties will identify the appropriate Result Area and Service Area for providers to report data to the County Commission. The County Commission will aggregate the data received from its programs and report the aggregated number to the State.

97. Will program directors' salaries be distributed by result area?

A. Please refer to the Fiscal Management Guide available on the First 5 Association website.

98. What is the success of non-English speaking clients in regards to possibly needing different methods of accessing families (being sensitive to different cultures)?

What have you learned in past years about the challenges of getting data from speakers of languages other than English? How will these challenges be handled in the new framework?

A. Meeting the cultural and language needs of the State and the incorporation of the First 5 Principles on Equity are high priorities of the State Commission and the new Statewide Evaluation contractor.

99. Clarification on reporting duplicated versus unduplicated data?

A. Local programs should report unduplicated counts to County Commissions. County Commissions will aggregate these data to report to the State. There will obviously be some duplication in the data reported to the State because it has been aggregated.

100. Clarification of reporting Core participants?

A. The new Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework does not include any distinction of “core” participants. Programs will need to continue to collect individual client data for their own evaluations and in order to aggregate data to report to the State.

101. What will be the fiscal format of reporting?

A. See sample forms, and refer to the Fiscal Management Guide available on the First 5 Association website.

102. Discuss reporting of providers if a county funds through an agency (e.g. that subcontracts with Dept of Public Health).

A. Providers (subcontractors) will report unduplicated accountability and fiscal data to the oversight agency, who will report the data to the County Commission. The County Commission will report aggregated data to the State.

103. Are there guidelines for selecting the result/service areas in which programs should fit?

A. Programs should report in the Result Area that is their primary focus. Then, they should select the appropriate Service Area within that result Area. Programs can also report in more than one Service Area within the Result Area if there is a reasonable method to divide the program. If there is no reasonable method for dividing the program into multiple Service Areas, programs should identify the one that most closely fits their major focus. The decision process for selecting Result Areas and Service Areas should be documented and kept on file for later reference if necessary.

104. Will we be reporting Level 1 aggregated data by program?

A. Yes.

105. Is accountability data reported by result area and service area, but fiscal data is reported by result area, service area, and provider?

A. Yes.

106. What do you mean by “provider”?

A. The type of provider who is providing the services, such as a school district, a county department, etc.

107. Are the elements finalized on the forms?

A. The elements are finalized (except see question 118), but the reporting format will be finalized by the new Statewide Evaluation contractor.

108. Will the current forms that we are using for the Annual Report, such as the capacity building form, be part of the new requirements?

A. No, only the data elements in the draft forms, plus the information in question 118.

109. What is a “reasonable” amount for a mini-grant to not be reported?

A. This should be based on each county’s total allotment amount. The current process identifies a \$5000 cut-off for small counties and a \$10,000 cut-off for large counties.

110. So if a client is served one time for 30 minutes or three times a week for 3 months, both will count as “one”?

A. Yes, for State reporting purposes.

111. Is it OK to have duplication at the county level if 2 different programs are serving the same client?

A. Yes, it is expected that this will occur as the numbers are aggregated.

112. Will there be a crosswalk to the new reporting format?

A. This is a good suggestion, which the State will request from the new Statewide Evaluation contractor.

113. Comment: Case Management is not on the list of services.

A. Case/Care Management Integration is under Result Area 4 on the list of Services. Case Management may be added.

114. What about duplicated counts in the aggregated sums?

A. Aggregated sums will undoubtedly include duplication, the Center for Results will take this into account in any data analyses.

115. For duplicated counts, will the count be annual or across the contract term (i.e., a SR 4 year program)?

A. Data will be reported to the State on an annual basis.

116. Clarification of reporting aggregate data: Result Area by Service Area -- Will aggregated data be the number of clients or the number of contacts?

A. The County Commission will report aggregated data on the number of clients on both the fiscal and service data forms.

117. Question to clarify the aggregated data reporting: Duplicated vs. Unduplicated data.

A. Local programs should report unduplicated counts to County Commissions. County Commissions will aggregate these data to report to the State. There will obviously be some duplication in the data reported to the State because it has been aggregated.

118. Do we no longer need to report data (unduplicated #'s on "other family members" (e.g., siblings over 5, grandparents, etc.)?)

A. Yes, you will need to report data about other family members. This column was not included in the sample forms, but will be added.

119. For projects serving Providers, are they reported under Strategic Result 4 in narrative format or with counts (entered on the data forms) of providers served?

A. Both.

**120. When will the Framework and Guidelines be in final form?
What is the timeline for the new requirements?
What will be the timeline for implementation of the new framework?**

A. The Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework is in its final form now; it was approved by the State Commission in July 2005. The Guidelines will be finalized when the new Statewide Evaluation contractor begins work (after May 1, 2006). Sample Guidelines have been provided to show the data elements that are required under the new Framework. The new requirements

are effective July 1, 2006. The State anticipates that 2006-07 will be an implementation year, with all elements being collected prior to June 30, 2007.

121. Will a format for the county commission profiles be provided to county commissions?

A. Yes, there will continue to be guidelines for the profiles.

122. How are the profiles different from what the Center for Results will do?

A. County Profiles will be completed by County Commissions to highlight local activities and outcomes in the Annual Report. County Profiles will be inputs to the Center for Results. The Center will be using local evaluation reports to provide a more complete statewide picture of County Commission activities.

**123. What is the reporting format?
Result Area by Service Area**

A. See the sample reporting forms.

124. Does Grants Management get reported under Administration or Program?

A. Please refer to the Fiscal Management Guide available on the First 5 Association website.

125. When will there be Fiscal Training?

A. Yes, GFOA will be providing regional training sessions. See the First 5 Association website for details.

126. Result areas 1 and 2 have “other” categories. Why do we not have that option for result area 3.

A. The State will add “other” to Result Area 3, with an additional field to report the specific services.

127. Are there any guidelines or recommendations for determining under which result area program fit

A. Yes, see the draft Annual Report Guidelines.

128. Can we include data not required but that is interesting or useful?

A. Yes.

Comment to audience: CARES data will also be integrated into the Center for Results.

129. What do you consider to be 100% State funded?

A. For example, Kit for New Parents, Safe From the Start, and Smokers Helpline.

130. Where will we report Grantee Expenditures?

A. Please refer to the Fiscal Management Guide available on the First 5 Association website.

131. Where in the Annual Report would you report payments from service providers (e.g., overpayments, service providers who have paid back the commission)?

A. Please refer to the Fiscal Management Guide available on the First 5 Association website.

132. Can we report the Annual Report electronically?

A. That is the ultimate goal, and the State is working towards implementing an electronic submission system as soon as possible.

133. Is it “to” 5” or “through” 5? Does this mean up until age 6?

A. The State Commission interprets it to be until the child's sixth birthday.

**134. Can we report only qualitative data in the Annual Report?
Is there any expectation of quantitative outcome data?**

A. No, the requirement is to report the quantitative data as illustrated on the sample reporting forms.

135. What if our county has no evaluation study of its own?

A. The new Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework and Prop 10 legislation expect that each county have its own program evaluation plan. The new Statewide Evaluation contractor will provide technical assistance to any county that requests it.

136. When will reporting formats be finalized?

A. The reporting formats will be finalized by the new Statewide Evaluation contractor soon after they begin work. The State anticipates that the contractor will begin work on May 1, 2006.

137. What Evaluation Systems do you recommend that will meet the proposed reporting structure?

A. The technology needs assessment is currently underway to determine the answer to this question. Based on the needs assessment, the State will be issuing a Request for Proposals for the technology component of the Statewide Evaluation.

138. In the Annual Report Glossary, “ethnicity” has “other” as an option. Will this be open ended to track changes in the population over time? Same question for the language “other”?

A. The State anticipates that there will be an additional field after “other” asking counties to specify the ethnicity or language.

139. Will we be required to report outcomes for each \$ First 5 spent? (e.g., mini grants, less intensive services, etc.)

A. Use the criteria of reasonableness to determine how much effort to put into evaluating any given service.

140. Please discuss the reporting of providers (in the context of a school district that subcontracts with other providers).

A. Please see the answer to question 96.

School Readiness

141. Is the Feb 28 deadline for submitting a report of School Readiness outcomes aligned with result areas to F5 CA. Is that deadline still real?

A. The deadline was changed to March 7.

142. Are counties or grantees to choose the outcomes?

A. Counties will submit this information to the State. The State expects that counties will work with their grantees to complete the information since the grantees will be providing the services.

143. Will there be an opportunity to revise the menu of outcomes and indicators?

A. Contact your regional evaluation representative if you have suggestions of validated measures showing outcomes for children and families to add to the menu of outcomes and indicators.

144. Can you clarify Developmental Screening in Result Area 2?

A. The definition is in the glossary. This service is listed under both Result Area 2 and Result Area 3 in order to give counties the discretion to determine which category best reflects their programs' objectives.

145. Can a logic model be developed with local county commission funded programs that serve the School Readiness community?

A. Yes, it is expected that School Readiness programs will complete a logic model.

146. Can the School Readiness reporting go in more than one place?

A. The State is not sure about the intent of this question.

147. Does the objective of the program or specific outcome determine the providers reported?

A. The State is not sure about the intent of this question.

**148. Is there a full list of services?
When will the list of services be finalized?**

A. There is a draft list of services in the Draft Annual Report Guidelines. The list is close to being complete. It will be finalized by the new Statewide Evaluation contractor soon after they begin work. The State anticipates that the contractor will begin work on May 1, 2006.

149. If a county is doing more than one outcome, is it required that all of them be listed on the logic model? Is this an RFF question?

A. There are two logic models: one is due by March 7 and does not require that all outcomes be included, the second is due when applying in response to the RFF and it does require listing all outcomes.

150. In what format will the direct service data be collected?

A. Counties will determine the format of data collection. Technical assistance will be provided by the new statewide evaluation contractor for those counties that would like assistance.

151. Will PEDS still be used to capture aggregate data for SR? Will our evaluation coach through AIR still be our coach?

A. Please refer to the answer to question 25 regarding PEDS. The new statewide evaluation contractor will determine the method for delivering technical assistance. It is not likely that your current evaluation coach will continue after the new contractor begins work (their anticipated start date is May 1, 2006).

152. Can we add a more detailed indicator as a subset of a larger indicator? How can we do this?

A. Report to the State on the indicator listed and add more details in the local evaluation report if there is support for the indicator's validity, etc.

153. How many outcomes per result area?

A. Applications are required to report to the State on a minimum of one outcome per result area, although more are welcome.

154. What are the 5 most used languages in California other than English?

A. Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean

155. Do we need to report intensity and duration data with the new framework? For School Readiness?

A. No, these data are not required in the new Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework.

156. If a county is doing more than one outcome per result area do we need to report more than one?

A. In terms of the State reporting, only one outcome is required. However, more are welcome.

157. Did I hear correctly that for School Readiness programs if we have been using PEDS for years, we will still use PEDS, but new “contractors will modify what we collect and input?”

A. Please refer to question 25.
The new contractors will be making modifications as needed to fulfill the data requirements of the new Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework.

158. Unduplicated counts. Please give an example for the SR programs – e.g. multiple services across one funded program).

A. Guidelines are currently under development.

159. Will the definition of Core participants be revised to meet new requirements, or will each county be responsible for determining their own?

A. The Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework does not include any distinction of “core” participants. Programs will need to continue to collect

individual client data for their own evaluations and in order to aggregate data to report to the State.

160. Comparing the new list of outcomes and indicators to the list that was provided in the Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework, why are some service areas now under different result areas?

A. The list distributed during the training sessions shows the correct result areas.

161. Is the fiscal reporting the same as the School Readiness forms?

A. The State is currently working on a system to streamline all reporting.

162. How many outcome measures can be selected by grantees? What is the minimum/maximum?

A. For School Readiness reporting, applications must report to the State on at least one outcome per result area. There is no maximum. For local evaluation reporting, the number would be decided at the local level.

163. When will the outcomes and indicators list be finalized? Are there any major differences anticipated from what is required now? Since the list of outcomes and indicators is only a draft, do you think some will be taken off the list?

A. The outcomes and indicators list will be finalized by the new Statewide Evaluation contractor soon after they begin work. The State anticipates that the contractor will begin work on May 1, 2006. The list will not change dramatically from the current version; some indicators may be added, but none would be deleted.

164. Request for more detail on selecting which to choose when there is the same service category in two result areas.

A. Guidelines are currently under development by the Evaluation Workgroup.

165. Request clarification that the exclusion for CARES and Health Access in the outcomes and indicators chart only applies if you are already reporting that data, but NOT if you are not reporting it.

A. Counties that are part of the State's CARES and Health Access programs are already reporting these data to the State, so they cannot select these outcome/indicators for School Readiness reporting. Counties that are funding programs like CARES and Health Access using School Readiness funds can report on these outcome/indicators.